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20 Sept. 48

Director of Central Intelligence

Assistant Director for Operations

Transmission of Classified Matter
by FBIB to Field Bureaus

1. During October and November 1947 informal discussions were initiated at the request of the Assistant Director for Operations between the Chief, FBIB, and the Chief, Communications Division, OSO, relative to establishing a procedure for transmitting classified matter over the facilities employed by FBIB. These discussions were initiated in consideration of the fact that the consolidated list of FBIB monitoring targets and the transmission of this list in the clear gives definite indication of what U. S. intelligence agencies are interested in from week to week.

2. This matter was referred to the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence early in November 1947 after which FBIB was instructed to continue to transmit weekly targets in the clear over normal FBIB channels, and to utilize facilities of the Communications Division for transmission of other classified matter.

3. The operation conducted by FBIB requires day to day direction of the field bureaus by the Washington office. This direction includes requesting coverage of foreign broadcasts with the object of obtaining specific information pertinent to either classified or unclassified collection directives. It is frequently necessary to alert the field bureaus in order to effect specific coverage of selected topics. In connection with such requests or alerts sent to the field, messages must carry a classification consistent with the classification of the CD to which they pertain. At the present time it is necessary for the FBIB to utilize facilities of the Communications Division, CIA, for the transmission of classified messages or, where time permits, to transmit classified information in written form via diplomatic pouch to overseas bureaus. U. S. air mail is utilized to points within the United States. These facilities impose an unwarranted delay in FBIB operations. The delay in the receipt of classified messages by FBIB field bureaus is due to the lack of proximity of the field bureau to the closest point of reception, as indicated below:

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To Director, CIA

a. In England classified radio messages or written instructions sent via diplomatic pouch are received in London while the FBIB field bureau is physically located at Caversham, a distance of 40 miles.

b. On Cyprus, instructions dispatched by diplomatic pouch are received at Nicosia while the FBIB field bureau is located in Kyrenia, a distance of approximately 20 miles over mountainous roads.

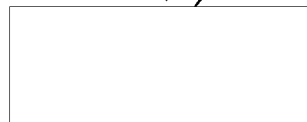
c. In the Hawaiian Islands, classified radio messages are received at Fort Shafter, Oahu, while the FBIB field bureau is located on the island of Kauai, a distance of approximately 100 air miles.

d. The FBIB West Coast Bureau is located at Reseda, California, a distance of approximately 20 miles from Los Angeles.

4. FBIB can improve its operational efficiency by reducing the time of transmission of classified messages between the Washington office and certain FBIB field bureaus.

5. It is recommended that FBIB, in conjunction with the Communications Division, CIA, establish a procedure for the transmission of classified messages over the facilities presently employed by FBIB.

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